Government agencies.

With respect to the spreading of smoke and haze from the forest fire in Indonesia, based on information from the India Metrological Department, the possibility of India being affected is not foreseen.

(e) Yes, Sir. The India Meteorological Department have studied the El Nino Phenomenon for the Indian Subcontinent from the year 1901 onwards. During the last 97 years, the EL Nino phenomenon was observed in 18 years. Out of the 18 EL Nino year observed, 9 El Nino years have affected the Indian monsoons

[Translation]

Non Formal Education Scheme

*71. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the date from which the non formal education scheme is being operated and the number of students who were imparted education under the scheme;

(b) the amount spent thereon since 1990 and the States covered under the scheme;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any honorarium scheme for the teachers working under this scheme; and

(d) if so, the time by which the rate of honorarium is likely to be increased and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. R. BOMMAI): (a) The scheme of Non-Formal Education (NFE) was launched on 30th June, 1978. Approximately 821.93 lakh learners were enrolled under the scheme from 1979-80 to 1996-97.

(b) From 1990-91 to 1996-97, a sum of Rs. 701.81 crores have released for NFE scheme in 21 States/UTs.

(c) Yes Sir. As per the present scheme, a sum of Rs. 200/- is paid as honorarium to the Instructors.

(d) During the 9th Plan it is proposed to revise the existing NFE Scheme which includes enhencement of honorarium for NFE instructors subject to availability of Funds.

[English]

Territorial Army Committee

*72. LT. GEN PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to reduce the force levels of the Army and to increase the involvement of Territorial Army in the Security duties, especially in counterinsurgency operations;

(b) whether the Territorial Army Committee suggested compulsory enrolment of the Government employees as well as of the Territorial Army for the Navy and the Air Force; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in the light of Territorial Army Committee's suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) At present, there is no such proposal before the Government.

(b) The Territorial Army Review Commitee has, inter-alia, recommended constitution of an Indian Territorial Force comprising Army, Navy and Air Force components. The Committee has also recommended compulsory liability of Government servants and employees of PSUs to serve in the Territorial Army for a period of 5 years.

(c) The recommendation made by the Territorial Army Review Committee cover a wide area of activities and has necessitated consultations with many agencies/ organisations. The process of consultation which is already underway has not yet been completed.

Document Missing From Bihar Research Society

*73. SHRI L. RAMANA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated August 25, 1997 that thousands of rare books, manuscripts, research papers and other documents of national and international importance pertaining to Buddhist religion and philosophy are missing from the Bihar Research Society;

(b) if so, the details of the missing documents;

(c) whether any request has been made to the Central Government to intervene and declare the Society as a National Heritage so that the remaining rare collections are preserved; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R.BOMMAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the Government does not have any first hand knowledge about the state of affairs in the Bihar Research Society, Patna which is a registered Society, but not under the control or management of the Central Government.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No final view has been taken in this respect.

Postal Services

*74. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that postal services in the North-Eastern States have deteriorated deplorably during the last three years;